

Georgia Minority Health & Health Disparities Report



The Melting Pot

Georgia's growing diversity adds color to the black and white spectrum.



Georgia is increasingly multi-dimensional in its diversity. While diversity was once plotted only on the black-white axis, Georgia's population has blossomed colorfully in many directions. For example, the Hispanic and Latino population in Georgia grew by 300% from 1990 to 2000. According to the 2004 Current Population Survey, there are now over half a million (517,587) Hispanic or Latino persons in Georgia, representing 6.0% of the entire population. This is not a monolithic group. Most individuals find their ethnic identity in their nation of origin, thinking of themselves as Chicano (Mexican) or Puertorriqueño or Colombiano. This “within-group” diversity is seen in Fig. 1. The growing Hispanic and Latino populations have affected not only the major metropolitan areas, but

Diversity within Georgia's Hispanic and Latino Communities

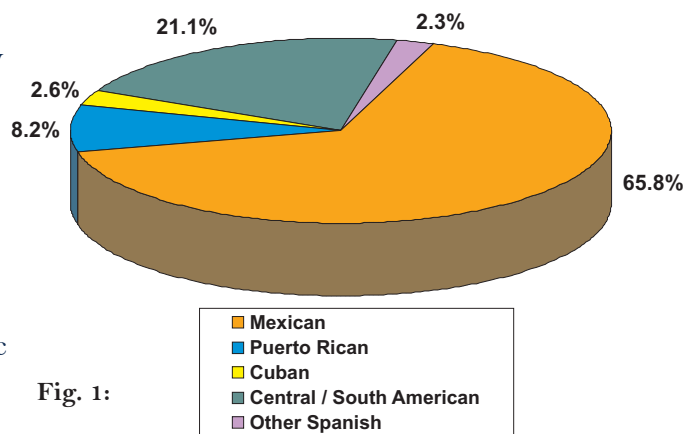


Fig. 1:

Just the Facts

767,595 Georgians are foreign born, with the majority coming from Mexico, Germany, Korea, India and Jamaica.



This is the first of a series of reports released by the Georgia Office of Minority Health, Department of Community Health in collaboration with the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine.



Just the Facts

300% increase in the Latino/Hispanic population in Georgia from 1990 to 2000.

By 2025 more than one-third of the Georgia population will be people of color.

24.5% of Spanish speaking households find themselves linguistically isolated which accounts for 44,233 families in Georgia.

Georgia's increasingly diverse population will require a proportionately diverse health professional workforce, which it does not currently have.

173,170 persons of Asian origin live in Georgia, which include Asian Indians, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and other Asians.

New models of community outreach and health care delivery will be needed to serve these new populations.

340,529 Georgians are Mexicans, according to the 2004 U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.



communities across Georgia. Thirty-five counties had at least 2000 Hispanic or Latino individuals in the most recent census, and Hispanic or Latino persons make up more than 5% of the population in thirty-two Georgia counties.

This growth is most dramatic among school-aged children in Georgia. Throughout the state school districts have been adapting to ever-increasing populations of students for whom English is a second-language. For example, Hispanic and Latino children make up 89% of the students at Park Creek Elementary School in Dalton, Georgia.

In the health arena, however, hospitals, public health departments, community health centers, and physicians' offices have not nearly caught up with the need for Spanish-language professionals, or even basic interpreter services.

The growth in Georgia's Hispanic and Latino populations is paralleled by growth in

Top Nations of Origin for Foreign-Born Georgia Residents, 2004

Nation of Birth	Number	%
U.S. Born	7,803,486	91.0%
Foreign Born	767,595	9.0%
Total Georgia Pop.	8,571,081	100.0%

Nation of Birth	Number	%
Mexico	216,920	2.5%
Germany	44,751	0.5%
Korea/ South Korea	42,151	0.5%
India	32,481	0.4%
Jamaica	28,215	0.3%
Philippines	26,265	0.3%
Nigeria	24,529	0.3%
China	23,883	0.3%
Colombia	22,900	0.3%
Brazil	21,575	0.3%
South America	20,630	0.2%
Puerto Rico	19,003	0.2%
Japan	13,835	0.2%
Panama	13,431	0.2%
Uruguay	12,110	0.1%
England	11,764	0.1%
Canada	11,386	0.1%
El Salvador	10,541	0.1%
Cuba	10,078	0.1%
Ethiopia	8,638	0.1%
Holland/Netherlands	7,574	0.1%
Slovakia/Slovak Republic	7,492	0.1%
Haiti	7,058	0.1%
France	6,384	0.1%
Honduras	6,298	0.1%
Russia	5,399	0.1%
Thailand	5,280	0.1%
Vietnam	4,872	0.1%
Hong Kong	4,842	0.1%

U.S. Census Bureau: Current Population Survey Supplement, March 2004.

various other immigrant and ethnic populations. Nine percent of Georgia's population in the 2004 Current Population Survey reported being born outside the United States, representing over three-quarters of a million Georgians. While a third of these were born in Mexico, each of twenty-eight nations was the birthplace for over 5,000 Georgians.

Just the Facts

216,920 foreign born residents in Georgia were born in Mexico, representing the top foreign born country of origin in Georgia.

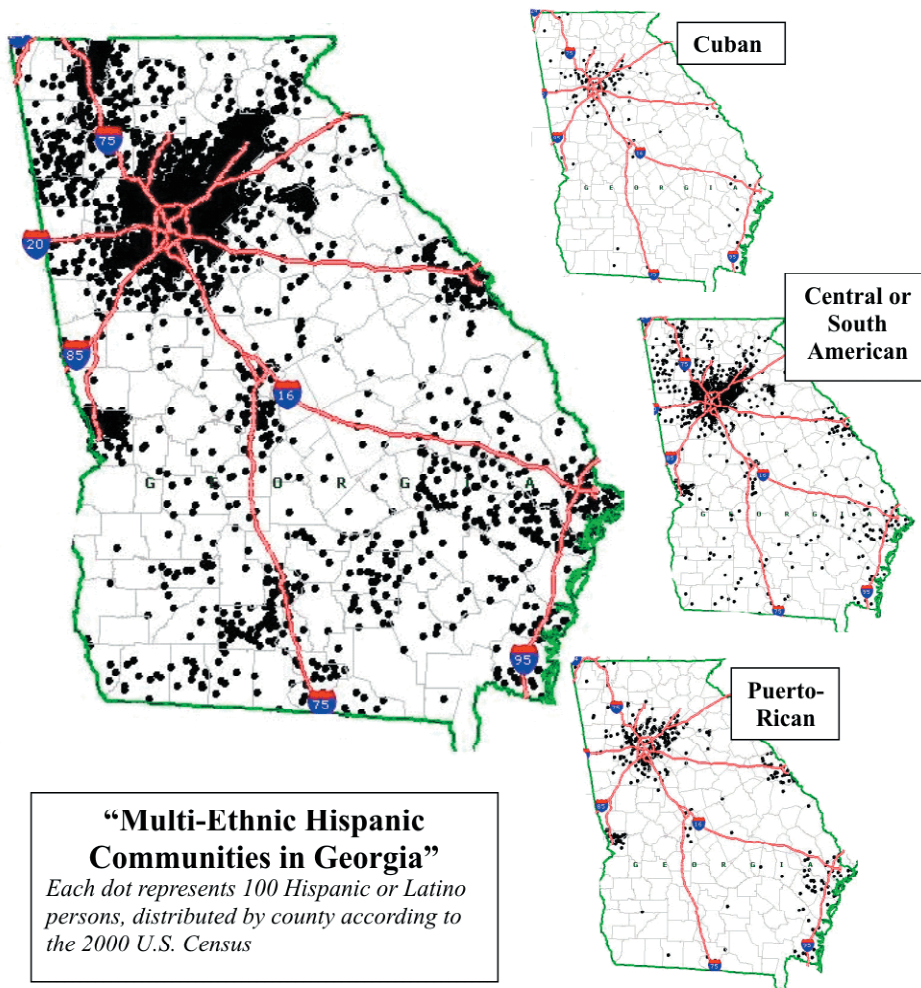
There are over 30 foreign languages spoken in the state of Georgia.

During the 1990s the total immigrant population grew by almost 100% in Georgia.

500,000+ Hispanic/Latino persons live in Georgia, representing 6% of the state's entire population.

89% of the children at Park Creek Elementary School in Dalton, Georgia are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

76% of the Hispanic population participate in the civilian labor force in Georgia compared to 68% participation in the United States.



These immigrant populations represent a blossoming diversity in language groups for our state's population, which will be a tremendous strength in positioning Georgia as a leader in global markets. However, until Georgians embrace a multi-lingual, multi-cultural community, some individuals may find themselves linguistically isolated and unable to access jobs, schools, or services. Figure 3 (pg. 4) shows the number of households in Georgia limited

by linguistic isolation for each major language group. While 90% of Georgian adults speak only English, the top foreign-languages spoken by more than 20,000 Georgians include French, German, various African languages, Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese. Georgians from the Indian sub-continent (South Asia) speak Gujarathi (9,243), Hindi (6,414), Urdu (5,309) and other Indic languages (7,852). Filipino persons in Georgia make Tagalog a common language as well (6,610 persons).

Fig. 3: **Households by Language Spoken & Linguistic Isolation**

	Total Households by Language	Linguistically Isolated	Not Linguistically Isolated	% Linguistic Isolation
English	2,664,976	0	2,664,976	0.0%
Spanish	180,548	44,233	136,315	24.5%
Other Indo-European languages	96,410	10,384	86,026	10.8%
Asian and Pacific Island languages	46,926	13,986	32,940	29.8%
Other languages	18,818	2,501	16,317	13.3%
Total	3,007,678	71,104	2,936,574	2.4%

Just the Facts

34,384 Georgians speak French.

41% of the uninsured in Georgia are Hispanic/Latino and 24% are multi-racial.

43% of the population of the City of Doraville is Latino.

28% of Blacks and 21% of Latinos/Hispanics live in poverty.

21,950 Georgians speak Vietnamese.

Language skills and cultural knowledge may be as important as technical skills in the healthcare workforce and the curricula of health professions training programs.

Over one thousand individuals in Georgia speak Native North American languages (1,013), including Navajo (124) .

Figure 4 (pg. 5) lists the top forty languages spoken in Georgia.

Finally, while the dramatic growth in multi-lingual and multi-cultural populations has captured Georgia's attention, health disparities persist on the black-white axis. The African-American community has also experienced growth in Georgia, despite significantly higher death rates. As of the year 2000, Georgia had 2.35 million persons (28.7% of the total population) who counted themselves as African-American. African-

American persons comprise the majority (>50%) population for seventeen counties in Georgia.

Disparities in health outcomes, health behaviors, deaths, disability, access to health care, and quality of health care all weigh disproportionately on the African American community. In the words of Wynton Marsalis, "race is still the elephant in America's living room." For example, more than half of all the uninsured in Georgia are African-American. Death rates from infant mortality, heart disease, stroke, and cancer are all 1.5 to 2.5 times higher for African Americans as compared to Georgia's white population. These black-white mortality ratios have changed little over the past 40 years.

Conclusions & Recommendations

1. Diversity in Georgia is a growing strength of our population.
2. Georgia's increasingly diverse population will require a proportionately diverse health professional workforce, which it does not currently have.
3. Language skills and cultural knowledge may be as important as technical skills in the healthcare workforce and the curricula of health professions training programs.
4. The black-white dynamics of Georgia's large European and African-American populations will require not only culturally-competent health professionals, but racially-competent health professionals.
5. Health care institutions and public health agencies must develop and act on strategic plans focused on delivering culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) consistent with CLAS standards from the federal Office of Minority Health, and language accessibility standards from the Office of Civil Rights.
6. New models of community outreach and health care delivery will be needed to serve new populations. When there is an ethnic or linguistic mis-match between the community

**Fig. 4:
Top Forty Languages Spoken
in Georgia's Adult Population
(18 years and over):**

	6,020,679
Speak only English	5,417,941
Spanish or Spanish Creole	332,941
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	34,384
German	28,887
Vietnamese	21,950
African languages	21,054
Korean	20,818
Chinese	19,937
Gujarathi	9,243
Other Indic languages	7,852
Other Asian languages	7,636
Arabic	7,034
Japanese	6,974
Tagalog	6,610
Hindi	6,414
Russian	6,032
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	5,602
Italian	5,435
Urdu	5,309
Other Indo-European languages	4,720
Persian	4,534
Serbo-Croatian	4,136
French Creole	3,950
Laotian	3,875
Other West Germanic languages	3,241
Greek	3,007
Other Slavic languages	2,665
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	2,598
Polish	2,478
Thai	2,389
Hebrew	2,303
Other Pacific Island languages	1,971
Scandinavian languages	1,700
Other and unspecified languages	1,577
Other Native North American languages	1,013
Miao, Hmong	883
Hungarian	771
Yiddish	496
Armenian	195
Navajo	124

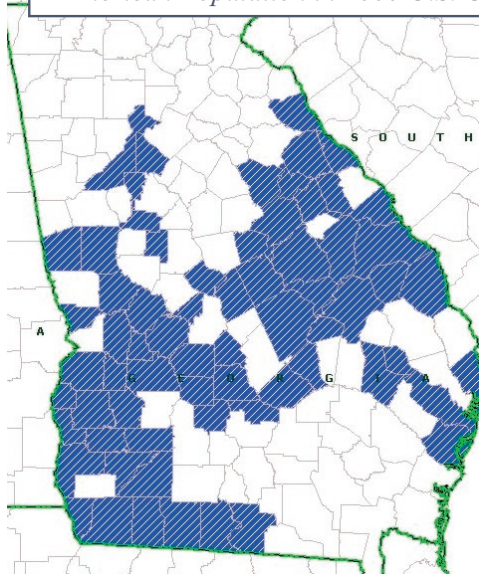
Just the Facts

71,104 Georgia households are linguistically isolated, and unable to speak and comprehend English.

and the available health professional workforce, “bridge-persons” will be needed, such as promotoras and lay health workers from the target community.

7. More sophisticated tracking and surveillance systems will be needed to tease out disparities in health care and health outcomes for new immigrant populations and various sub-groups of ethnic minority populations.

Georgia counties with >30% African-American Population in 2000 U.S. Census.



These disparities are already well-documented for African-American persons in Georgia. ■

Just the Facts

68% of the African American population participate in the civilian workforce in Georgia.

Between 1990 – 2000, there was a 378% increase in the ‘other race’ population in Georgia.

51% and 37% are the ownership rates of the African American and Hispanic/Latino population in Georgia, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

17 Georgia counties are predominately African American (>50% of the population).



National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine

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720 Westview Drive, SW • Atlanta, GA 30310

Phone: 404-756-5740 • Fax: 404-756-5767 • Web-Site: www.msm.edu/NCPC • E-mail: NCPC@msm.edu

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